

where sections have been referenced by a speaker). This book will be an invaluable aide to all those wishing to catch up on developments in selected areas of genitourinary medicine. I would strongly recommend that every department makes sure their staff have ready access to a copy.

R PATEL

Sexually Transmitted Diseases. A Textbook of Genito-Urinary Medicine. Edited by G W Csonka, J K Oates (Pp 564; £49.50). London: Bailliere-Tindall, 1990. ISBN 0-7020-1258-0.

This multi-author text with its eye catching cover adds another alternative to the growing number of books on sexually transmitted diseases.

The book is clearly laid out. There are 42 chapters under 13 section headings covering a wide range of allied topics as well as the standard sexually transmitted diseases. Genital malignancies, pregnancy and contraception have designated chapters and I was particularly pleased to see the problem of child abuse and rape including its medicolegal aspects addressed.

The two editors are eminent genitourinary physicians and a wealth of clinical experience is demonstrated in their chapter contributions. Unfortunately this text runs into problems with having multiple authors. Some chapters are well written, illustrated and referenced whereas others are not of such good quality. There is some repetition of material, as acknowledged by the editors, but there is also inconsistency. Appendix 2 entitled a "simplified approach for STD" has the fashionable algorithmic approach which is often far from simple. The treatment schedules in this and Appendix 3 do not always agree with those in the chapters, which is very confusing. There is little information on the practical techniques of history and specimen taking and the microbiological aspects of some conditions are hardly discussed. However there are some masterpieces. The section on "non-specific" genital infection and chapters on viral hepatitis, AIDS and genital dermatoses deserve special credit.

This book recently received a tough

review in the British Medical Journal. Although there are some deficiencies and I would say it is not my choice for the definitive specialist reference text its great advantage over competitors from the United States and Scotland is that it is extremely readable. It may be more appropriate for those in post-graduate training at diploma level and other physicians with an interest in the subject than the specialist genitourinary physician. Undergraduates may find smaller alternatives serve their purpose and pocket better than this £49.50 text. Nevertheless this book once purchased is less likely to collect (or show) the dust than many others.

A J ROBINSON

limited to 20 and the closing date is 28 June, 1991. Interested members should contact:

The Secretary,
Dr D A Hicks
Department of GU Medicine,
Royal Hallamshire Hospital,
Glossop Road,
Sheffield S10 2JF.
or
The President,
Dr A B Alawattagama,
University dept. of G U Medicine,
Royal Hospital,
Prescot Street,
Liverpool S7 8XP.

NOTICE

Northern Genito-Urinary Physicians Colposcopy Group

The Second Theoretical and Practical Course in Colposcopy for Genito-Urinary Physicians will be held 4-6 October, 1991, Clatterbridge Hospital on the Wirral.

A wide range of topics in colposcopy will be covered including: Aetiology, pathology, diagnosis and treatment of CIN, screening programmes, basic colposcopy, setting up a colposcopy service in GUM and confidentiality. There will be treatment demonstrations with the CO₂ laser, loop diathermy, cold coagulator, etc (not on patients).

Course fee £275 will include all meals including the Society Banquet in Thornton Hall. The accompanying guest fee is £75 which includes two nights accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal with Society Banquet. Numbers are strictly